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HOW NOW, CHRIS BROWN? {page 09}

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Reckoning nears in 'biggest green scam'

- Bala Cynwyd-based company run by two Temple grads at center of class action suit in $54 million Ponzi scheme
- Estimated 300 to 500 victims of clean energy fraud called Mantria
- Only $790,000 remained when SEC filed charges in '09 {page 02}

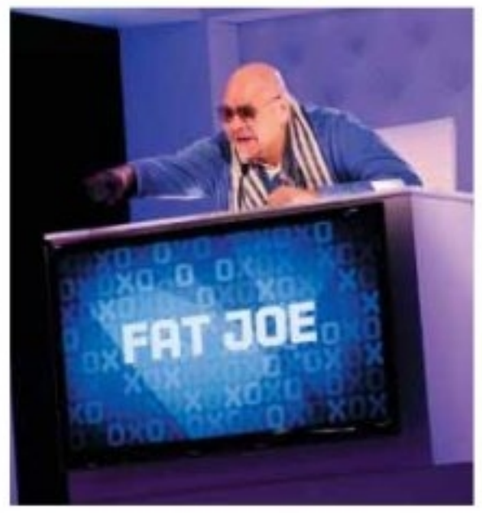
ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

NBA playoffs. Celtics 101, Sixers 85

▶ It was that kind of night for Spencer Hawes (10 points) and the Sixers last night. They now face a must-win Game 6 at the Wells Fargo Center.

The Sixers find themselves down 3-2 in the Eastern Conference semifinals after dropping Game 5 last night in Boston. The team was clicking early, then watched Boston outscore them 54-35 in the second half, including 28-16 in the third quarter. Elton Brand paced the Sixers with a team-high 19 points, with Lavoy Allen adding 12. The best-of-seven series shifts back to South Philadelphia tomorrow night for Game 6. {page 15-16}

Television



Did someone call Fat Joe a square?

- Rapper is part of a new MTV2 show that remixes a beloved old game show
- Also on: Ghostface {page 10}

Light sentence in Clementi case

Former Rutgers student to serve 30 days after spied-upon roommate took life {page 05}

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Victims in Mantria fraud begin class action lawsuit

Massive clean-energy fraud involving Temple grads that stretched from Bala Cynwyd to Tennessee and Denver enters class action stage Philly law firm among defendants named

The search by a Philadelphia law firm has begun for victims of a $54 million Ponzi scheme dubbed last year as the largest green scam in America — in part evolving from a City Avenue company called Mantria.

Attorney Patrick Howard, of Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky, said yesterday that the first briefs in the class action suit are due Friday. Those will likely be motions by defendants to dismiss the lawsuit.

The suit stems from the $54 million fraud first unhatched by the Securities Exchange Commission in 2009 and headed by young 20-something Philadelphia residents Troy Wragg and Amanda Knorr as well as a notorious pitchman in Denver, Colo., in which investors were led to believe was a clean energy startup. Mantria, based in a Bala Cynwyd office space, positioned itself as a producer of a clean-burning energy called "biochar," which Wragg and Knorr said was being produced at a facility in Tennessee.

Among the defendants in the class action suit is high-profile and politically connected Philadelphia law firm Astor, Weiss, Kaplan & Mandel. One of the firm's attorneys, Chris Flannery, did legal work for Mantria before becoming a full-time employee of the company, Howard said. Another defendant, Dan Rink, became chief financial officer at Mantria and worked directly below Wragg and Knorr after being hired as a consultant from Tatum Partners. Tatum, which describes itself as "the largest and fastest-growing executive services and consulting firm in the United States helping companies in transition to accelerate business success and create more value," is also a defendant.

Howard said a federally appointed receiver for any money recovered estimates 300 to 500 people were defrauded. Some victims are from the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.

"We're barred from suing Troy and Amanda, so our case is all about the people who were at the top of this thing who had access to the financials," Howard said of Rink and Flannery and the firms they worked for as Mantria contractors, noting Wragg and Knorr are still being investigated by federal authorities. "Common sense leads you to the conclusion they had to know."

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Mantria rented office space at 555 City Avenue, which is still owed rent, Howard said.

Criminal charges next?

A federal grand jury in Denver is also believed to be investigating whether Wragg, Knorr, McKelvey or anyone else involved in the Mantria scheme should face criminal charges. No details on any final determination were available yesterday.

Behind Wragg, his 'biochar'

Mantria called itself a "diversified company" and had about 30 divisions, from real estate to banking and even a record label.

What caught the most attention and was used as a big

selling point during "get rich quick" seminars with potential investors was Mantria's "biochar" development at a facility in rural Tennessee. The SEC filings in 2009 included pages of testimony debunking what Wragg and a Denver pitchman told investors of successful production of the supposed clean energy source. Investigations into biochar by Metro even brought into question the actual viability of its clean energy potential.

Wragg pointed out to Metro in 2009 that the SEC didn't allege that any of those named in the civil complaint lived lavishly off of investors' money, a la Bernie Madoff.

"I live in a 1,200-square-foot [home]," he told Metro. "I don't drive a Lamborghini."

But Wragg did drive a Mercedes SLK350 with a "MANTRIA" vanity license plate.

Clinton, Elway linked to Mantria

Just two months before the SEC charges were filed in November 2009, Wragg was on stage with former President Bill Clinton, receiving congratulations from Clinton's foundation for the fight to "mitigate global warming." **Wragg and Knorr, both 2005 Temple graduates, "went through our normal due-diligence process and we found nothing of concern," Clinton spokesman Matt McKenna told Metro.** "We were surprised and disappointed to learn that their work may in fact be fraudulent." **Even Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway got involved in the alleged Ponzi Scheme.** The former Bronco spoke — for huge fees — at investment seminars in Colorado for Speed of Wealth, the company that brought investors into the scam. Elway's agent told the Denver Post that he had "no ongoing relationship" with the companies.

How did $40 million disappear?

Howard said Wragg appears to have started modestly enough by running a real estate business out of his parents' Lehigh County home and may have even turned modest profits in 2007.

But then he decided to expand his business and eventually came in touch with a Denver-based "wealth consultant" named Wayde McKelvey, who ran an investment group called "Speed of Wealth."

"That's where things appear to have taken a turn," Howard said. "Wayde had this vehicle Speed of Wealth. For the first investors, everyone got their money back. Pretty soon tons of money's rolling in. But you can follow the internal e-mails contained in the SEC complaint. In February 2009, the e-mails become frantic because there's debt calls coming up."

By the time the SEC shut down the company in late 2009, all that was left of between $34 million and $40 million in investors' money was $790,000.

According to sources and filings, Wragg, Knorr and McKelvey spent Mantria investment money lavishly, like a $150,000 getaway to Las Vegas.

BRIAN X. MCCRONE
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In the news

School layoff protests begin tomorrow

Thousands of workers are expected to protest mass layoffs and an attempt to privatize some city schools. Members of 32BJ, which represents approximately 3,000 bus drivers, custodians and other workers, have already received layoff notices that take effect this summer. The teachers union is also opposed to turning schools over to independent management groups. METRO

In the news

HS baked sale

Two people have been arrested in Chester County for allegedly selling marijuana-laced brownies to high school students. Police in Tredyffrin Township said at least three students Conestoga High reportedly became ill after eating the brownies. Justin Mendenhall, 19, and Katelyn Anne Jennings, 20, were both charged.

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Criticizing criticism

PHILADELPHIA. Councilman Bill Green, who last week criticized the media for confusing his criticism of Mayor Michael Nutter's Actual Value Initiative of property tax assessments with his questioning of whether revenue from those taxes should go to the school district, held a press conference yesterday further clarifying his arguments. He also introduced amendments he said would help lessen the proposal's impact on homeowners.

METRO/AW

Pearl Jam to join Jay-Z

Rumors, uncertainty surround 'Made in America' concert Playbill was supposed to be released yesterday, but Live Nation remained silent

Jay-Z released "Phase 1."

Pearl Jam has confirmed through their website that they will be co-headlining Jay-Z's "Budweiser Made in America Festival" on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway over Labor Day Weekend.

The band also said that Massachusetts-based electropop outfit Passion Pit and Brooklyn rockers Dirty Projectors will be included.

Philly-bred pop-rap darling Santigold, who has opened for Jay-Z in the past, announced on her website she would be performing on the second day of the concert, Sept. 2, and eponymous local scenesters the Roots are also rumored to be performing.

There was still no official roster announcement from Live Nation as of press time and representatives did not provide a timeframe for announcements last night or today.

Hot tickets

Tickets will be available in limited quantities today beginning at 10 a.m. if fans RSVP using a presale code available on the event's Facebook page.

These advance tickets will run at $99 (plus $21 in Ticketmaster fees) for a two-day pass or $650 plus fees for a VIP package.

Tickets will be on sale to the general public tomorrow at 10 a.m.

A Ticketmaster glitch led to rampant rumors about the lineup of the two-day concert, which Jay-Z announced on the Art Museum steps last week alongside Mayor Michael Nutter.

As Dan Gross of Philly Gossip first reported, Burlington County's Cold Pizza Music, which describes itself as an organization helping to connect artists with fans in the college music scene, posted a screenshot of the prematurely released lineup that reportedly appeared on Ticketmaster's website Friday.

Coming as no surprise, Jay-Z is listed as the first act. Also appearing, according to a post on Jay-Z's Facebook page last night, are Skrillex, Miike Snow, Afrojack, Calvin Harris, Odd Future, D'Angelo, Maybach Music (featuring Rick Ross, Wale, Meek Mill), Passion Pit, Dirty Projectors, X, Janelle Monae, Prince Royce, Rita Ora, Savoy (DJ set) and The Knocks. He added more acts will be named soon.

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Ravi gets 30 days in Rutgers spy case

A former Rutgers University student was sentenced yesterday to 30 days in prison for a bias crime after he spied on his roommate's gay encounter in a case that drew national attention to bullying.

Dharun Ravi, 20, had faced a maximum of 10 years behind bars for his conviction for using a webcam to invade the privacy of his roommate, Tyler Clementi, and an older man in their college dorm room.

Clementi, 18, jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge in September 2010, days after learning Ravi watched them through the computer-mounted camera and used social media to encourage others to do so. Ravi was not charged with causing Clementi's death.

In handing down the relatively light sentence, Judge Glenn Berman emphasized that he never referred to Ravi's action as a hate crime — a term commonly used to describe bias intimidation laws — but rather as a bias crime.

"I don't believe he hated Tyler Clementi. He had no reason to. But I do believe he acted out of colossal insensitivity," Berman said.

The judge then sentenced Ravi to 30 days in prison, followed by three years' probation, 300 hours of community service and counseling about cyberbullying. He ordered Ravi to pay $10,000 for an organization that assists victims of bias crimes and to pay $1,900 in penalties. The judge will recommend that Ravi, who was born in India, not be deported.

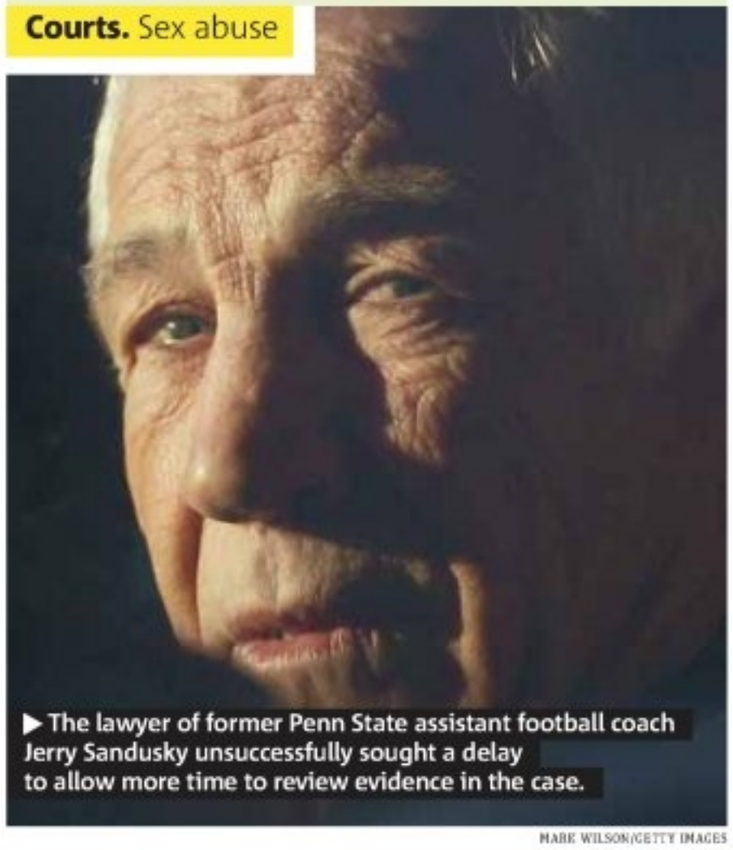
"I heard this jury say 'guilty' 288 times. Twenty-four questions, 12 jurors. ... I haven't heard you apologize once," Berman told Ravi. REUTERS

THE STAR-LEDGER, NEWARK NJ

▶ Ravi

"I don't believe he hated Tyler Clementi. He had no reason to. But I do believe he acted out of colossal insensitivity."
JUDGE GLENN BERMAN

Courts. Sex abuse



▶ The lawyer of former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky unsuccessfully sought a delay to allow more time to review evidence in the case.

MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

Judge: Sandusky trial must go on

A judge denied a motion yesterday to delay the start of the child sex-abuse trial of former Penn State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, according to court papers. As a result, Sandusky's trial will get under way on June 5. REUTERS

About Facebook: Stock dives after reality settles in

Facebook shares sank in the first day of trading without the full support of the company's underwriters, leaving some investors down almost 25 percent from where they were Friday and driving others to switch back to more established stocks.

Facebook's debut was beset by problems, so much so that Nasdaq said yesterday it was changing its IPO procedures. That may comfort companies considering a listing, but does it little for Facebook, whose lead underwriter, Morgan Stanley, had to step in and defend the $38 offering price on the open market.

Even so, one source said Morgan Stanley's own brokers were at one point "ranting and raving" about glitches that left unclear what trades had actually been executed. REUTERS

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Sabermetrics: Analysts and athletes play ball

▶ Andres

A growing academic field uses statistics to study baseball ◗ Courses springing up in US colleges, including Tufts and Seton Hall ◗ We touch base with sabermetrics maven Andy Andres

Until 10 years ago, Andy Andres drew a line between his passion for baseball and his academic career. But when Baseball HQ — a popular fantasy baseball site — asked him to research a few major league players, he happened upon a perfect synthesis of his scientific training and hardball geekdom.

By 2004, Andres founded his own sabermetrics (see sidebar) course at Tufts University, following the Red Sox's first World Series championship in more than 80 years. Now this full-time Boston University biology professor finds himself amidst a growing field of academic study (baseball, not biology). These days sabermetric courses can be found at many universities, with more on the way.

"Students are doing it on their own all over the country, and there's hundreds if not thousands of them that want to do this kind of work for their careers," says Andres. "I think there will be a slow groundswell. It's a niche course right now. I don't think it will remain that way."

But will we ever see a job listing that reads: "Wanted: general manager of Boston Red Sox. Requirements: extraordinary patience and an M.A. in Baseball Analytics"?

Likely not. But, in the post-"Moneyball" era, the MLB has certainly warmed to the eggheads in the front office.

"We're seeing the trend now: Baseball teams are hiring very good analysts. They're all college graduates," says Andres. "These people are very good at computer science and statistics. So, already, you need to be very proficient in these areas of your college study to work in baseball."

BRUCE WALSH
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By definition

What is sabermetrics?

Sabermetrics is the use of statistical analysis to study baseball. It is typically used to better understand the value of individual players and the effects of in-game strategy. The term was coined by analyst Bill James and later popularized by Michael Lewis' 2003 book, "Moneyball," which chronicled the implementation of these principles by the Oakland A's.

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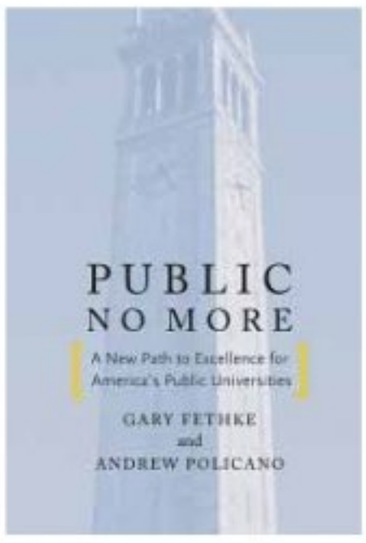
Is it the end of the public university?

Andrew Policano is the dean of the School of Business at University of California-Irvine. His latest book — "Public No More: A New Path to Excellence for America's Public Universities" — was co-authored with former University of Iowa Business School dean, Gary Fethke. It will be released this week by Stanford Business Books.



Do you believe that we are facing the end of public-funded higher education in the U.S.?
Yes. But what we mean by this is no longer being dependant on the state for the primary source of funding. It does not mean a lack of access or diversity.

You write that a truly public university is no longer sustainable. Is a 35 percent tax rate for the wealthy sustainable? Are these issues related?
Tax rates will have to go up for everyone over the next decade. Those long-term trends are pretty clear. That's the macro. But the micro here is the question of efficiency with most major public universities. For instance, most of them offer at least 80 undergraduate majors. Some offer more than 200. Is that scope efficient in any sense of the word? Our model is a high-tuition, high-financial aid model — rather than the current low-tuition, high-subsidy model. Ours is more market-focused, reacting to the needs of the marketplace and the students.

But when we alter public higher education to reflect consumer choices, do we risk having luxury gyms on campuses at the expense of rigorous study?
I think there's some truth to that. But the issue is that somebody's willing to pay for luxury gyms, and it's reflected in the price of their education. But if you're doing a lot of things on public campuses that people are not willing to pay for — taxpayers, students, donors — you have to ask why you're subsidizing it.

BRUCE WALSH
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PHOTODISC

▶ To remain sustainable, public universities may have to streamline their programs.

Q&A

Is it difficult to effect change at public universities?
We have a lot of governance resting with the faculty at the lower levels, and a lot at the board of regents — the higher level — and very little in the middle. That creates havoc with trying to be innovative.

That sounds democratic. Why is that bad?
Democracy is important. Too much of it is very inefficient.

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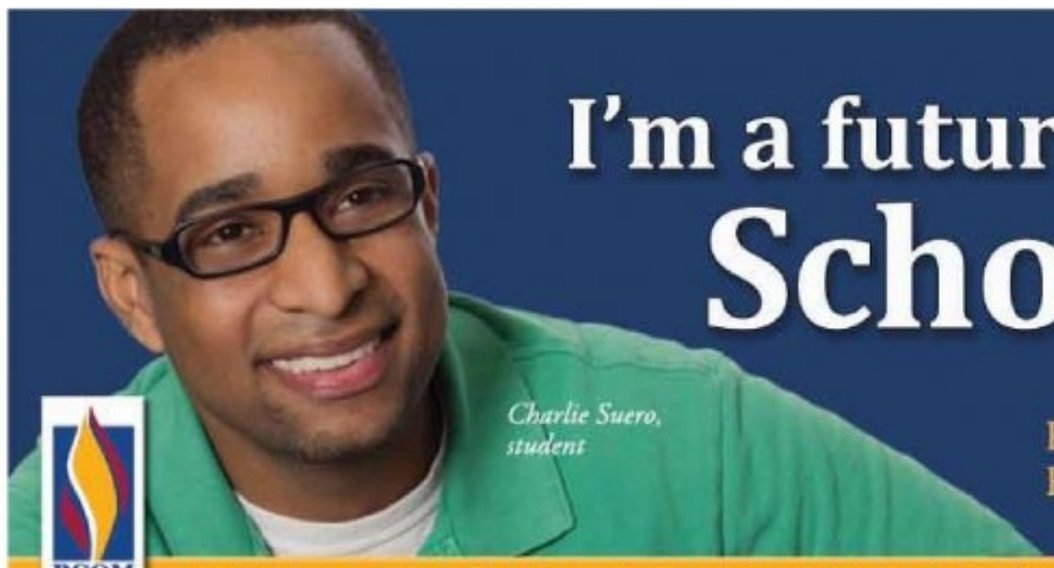

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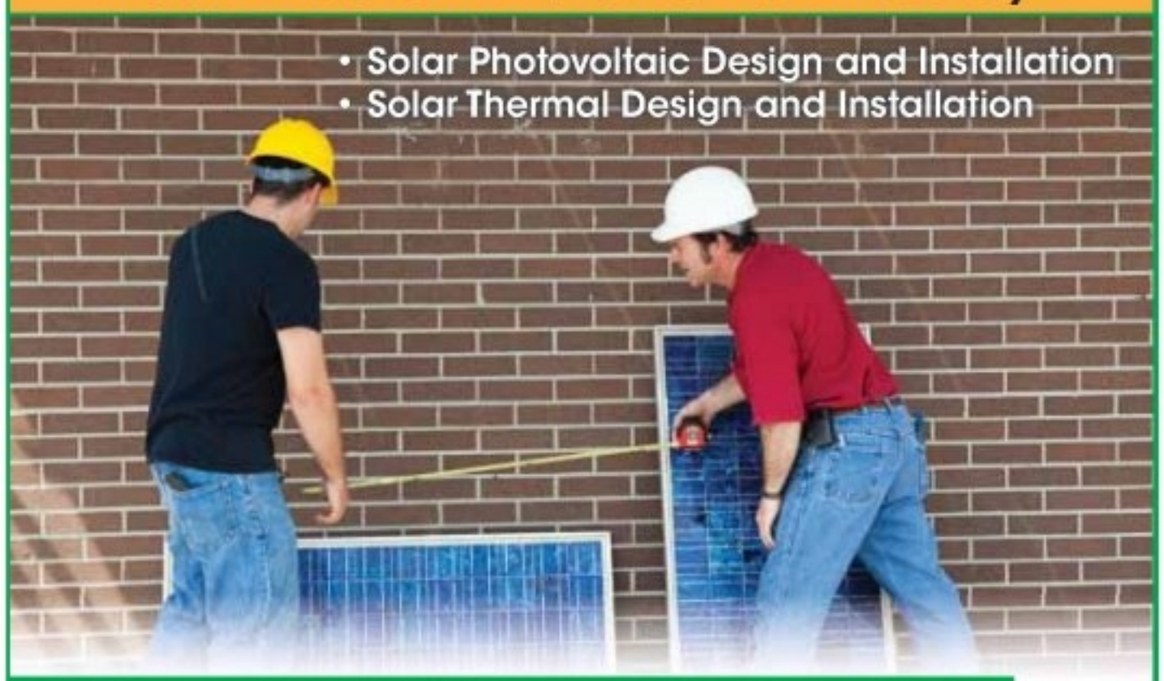

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Celebs call out Chris Brown performance

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Chris Brown appeared to lipsync his way through his Billboard Music Awards performance on Sunday evening, and it didn't escape the notice of his peers.

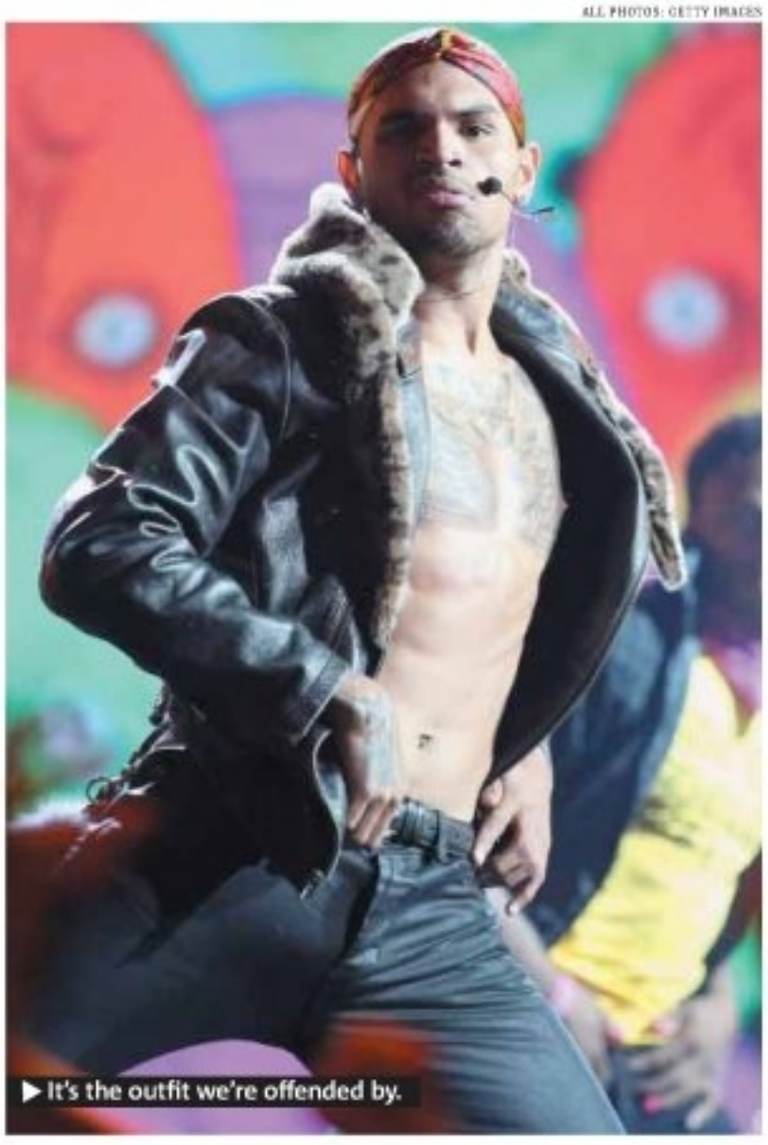
"One day if I lipsync I hope I do it as well as him," singer **Pink** tweeted during Brown's live rendition of "Turn Up the Music."

Mr. Pink, also known as **Carey Hart**, wasn't impressed either. "I'm pretty sure I saw my wife do that same performance, but she was three months pregnant and actually sang the song," he chimed in, also adding his professional opinion of the subpar BMX biking on stage.

This is getting brutal. **Joe Jonas**, what tweet you? "What happened to people singing live???"

Here's the thing: The song was obviously lip-synced — and laughably poorly. But the choreography is at least as important as the vocals for these shows, and Brown was far from the only one mouthing his way through a song that he probably had no business singing live.

But as for the fur-trimmed leather coat over a bare chest? No excuses.



▶ It's the outfit we're offended by.

Sleepover at DiCaprio's

If you have $75,000 to spare, **Leonardo DiCaprio**'s Malibu beach house could be yours — for a month, anyway. The breezy oceanfront home is now up for rent at www.zillow.com (and yes, stalkers, there's plenty of photos of all seven bedrooms). We Googled the math, and that's about $2,500 a night for your little "Titanic" fantasy. Invite us, and we'll bring the fogged-up town car.

Frankel shapes up

There are very few things we turn to **Bethenny Frankel** for advice on, but looking skinny in compromising situations is one of them. When we caught up with the former "Real Housewife" and Skinnygirl liquor founder about her new line of shapewear, she let us in on her inspiration.

"It's shapewear you actually want people to see," she tells us of the line, now available at Macy's. "What happens if you happen to get laid and it shows?"

▶ Cheers, Frankel.

Bethenny babe, thanks for looking out.

— With reporting by Mary Ann Georgantopoulos

She's thinking of the children

During a "Today" show interview yesterday, **Kate Gosselin** suggested she'll be back on TV — but it's not because she personally wants a new show. "Fans are begging [to see more]," the former "Kate Plus 8" star says. "[The kids] really, honestly miss filming. They've been saying, 'When are we going to go here or there? We miss the crew.'"

Sure Kate, I get it. Just like my dogs keep telling me to have a lunch cocktail and miss deadline.

Talking points

Big night for a Bieber superfan

It turns out pestering **Justin Bieber** can pay off. **Cady Eimer**, an 18-year-old Virginia high school student, has been petitioning Bieber for more than a year to be her date to her senior prom — and while he couldn't make the big dance, he did find a way to make it up to her. "I couldn't make it [to prom] so I said, 'I need you to fly to the Billboard Awards and you can be my date,'" he tells People magazine. "She's a big fan, and I thought it would be fun."

We missed you, Tara Reid!

Despite her efforts to present a cleaned-up and mature image while promoting "American Reunion," **Tara Reid** seems to be up to her old tricks. The troubled actress has been living it up at the Cannes Film Festival, where she was spotted looking worse for the wear while hurrying from one nightclub to another in the wee hours over the weekend, according to the Daily Mail. Reid remains unapologetic about her penchant for celebrating. "It's not like going out and getting drunk is a crime, lots of people do it," Reid tells the U.K.'s Loaded magazine. "It doesn't make me a bad person because I like to go out and have a drink. I've never missed a day's work."

Keep it coming, Mayer

With a new, more mature album to promote, **John Mayer** is continuing his tour of contrition, looking to explain some of his more outlandish past behavior — like talking out of turn about ex-girlfriends and using racial epithets in magazine interviews. "I had nothing to say. I was going through a time in my life where I didn't really want to share what was going on, but I didn't want to be boring," Mayer explains in an interview with NPR's "All Things Considered." "I remember thinking to myself, 'We've got to give a "Rolling Stone" interview. I don't want anybody at "Playboy" to think this is a boring interview.'"

Reid

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Steve Carell is proud of his parenting skills, Albert Brooks is glad to be back in civilization, Rosie O'Donnell is feeling out of touch and Steve Martin has big news.

@SteveCarell: For breakfast, my son ate: a chocolate chip waffle, a scoop of peanut butter, and a meatball. #Fatheroftheyear

@AlbertBrooks: Was in the desert for two days with no computer, tv, or anything. Just nature. Nature looks fatter in person.

@rosie: Reading OK mag 4 the first time - kinda shocked at how many people I do not know

@SteveMartinToGo: IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: A thing that will be something soon, coming, I'm sure, in the future, at some point.

Carell

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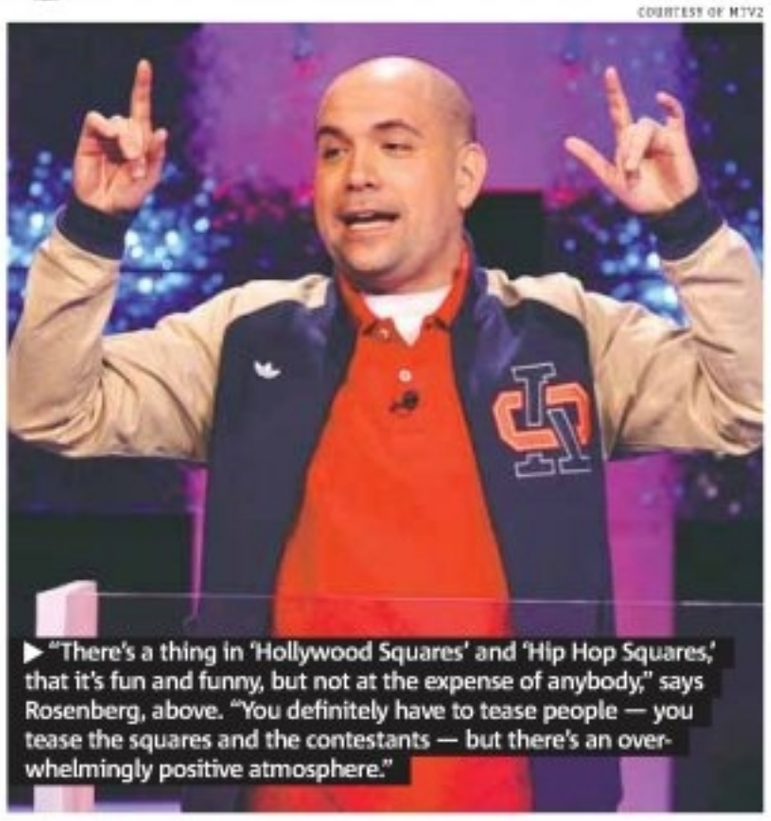
What happens when the game show becomes a party

COURTESY OF MTV2



▶ "There's a thing in 'Hollywood Squares' and 'Hip Hop Squares,' that it's fun and funny, but not at the expense of anybody," says Rosenberg, above. "You definitely have to tease people — you tease the squares and the contestants — but there's an overwhelmingly positive atmosphere."

MTV2 polishes off an old nugget and remixes it
'Hip Hop Squares' host Peter Rosenberg on finding 'the real gold' and on the way he refers to the guests

When considering entertainers like Ghostface Killah, Fat Joe, Amber Rose and Bam Margera, the first word that comes to mind is not usually "square." But when Peter Rosenberg, host of the new MTV2 show, "Hip Hop Squares," talks about the celebrity participants on the show, this is the word he most often uses.

"There are all of these cool people in a situation where they don't have to try to be cool," says Rosenberg, who is best known as a DJ on New York City's Hot 97. "We had the hottest street and radio artist, 2 Chainz, and based on his persona, the idea of seeing him having fun and being casual is just awesome."

Tune in

"Hip Hop Squares" premieres tonight at 11 on MTV2.

"Hip Hop Squares" is based on the classic game show, "Hollywood Squares." As was the case with that show, which reached peak popularity in the 1970s, nine famous personalities sit in the squares of a tic-tac-toe board. In this case though, most are affiliated with the world of hip-hop. While two contestants play tic-tac-toe against each other, they consult the celebs on trivia questions and can decide to take their advice or disregard it.

In one episode, Rosenberg poses the question: "Who is the female recording artist with the most No. 1 hits?" to which Nick Cannon, seated in the center square, excitedly shouts, "That would be my baby mama, Mariah Carey!"

The contestant disagrees.

"Those moments were awesome," laughs Rosenberg. "Every once in a while, we get moments where it's this no-brainer. ... And yet, people would still get it wrong. When those moments happen, that's when I think you get the real gold of the show."

It's hip-hop to be square

One of the slogans for "Hip Hop Squares" is "when the game show becomes a party," and it isn't unusual to see one of the "squares" with a drink in his or her hand.

▶ "Circle gets the square!"

"There was some partying," Rosenberg acknowledges. "There were episodes where it was out of control, but I don't know if I'd blame it on the partying so much as the cast of characters we had. It certainly had a feel that reminded me of the original ['Hollywood Squares']."

PAT HEALY
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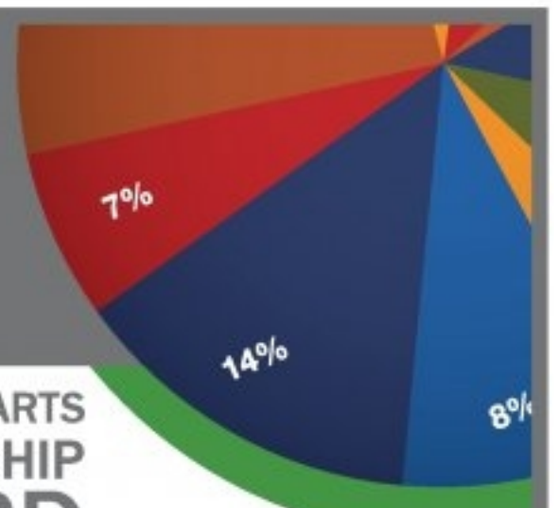

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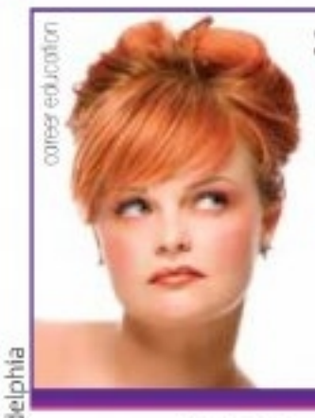

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Vitamin advice

Kids who eat a balanced diet usually don't need a daily multivitamin. But for choosy eaters, a multi can help pick up some of the slack, says pediatrician Alan Greene, M.D., author of "Feeding Baby Green." Use these label-reading tips the next time you're shopping for your child's vitamins.

Fill in the gaps

Check labels for nutrients most likely to be missing from your kid's diet, such as vitamin D, calcium, iron, folate and zinc. Most multis contain little calcium, so if your child doesn't consume much dairy or fortified food, consider a separate calcium supplement.

Do D diligence

Look for at least 400 IUs of vitamin D3 (not D2 or simply D). Vitamin D3, which may also be listed as cholecalciferol or calciol, is thought to be better absorbed than other kinds.

Avoid mercury

If the multi contains omega-3s from fish, look for a statement that the product has been certified free of heavy metals such as mercury and PCBs. **RACHEL MORRIS**

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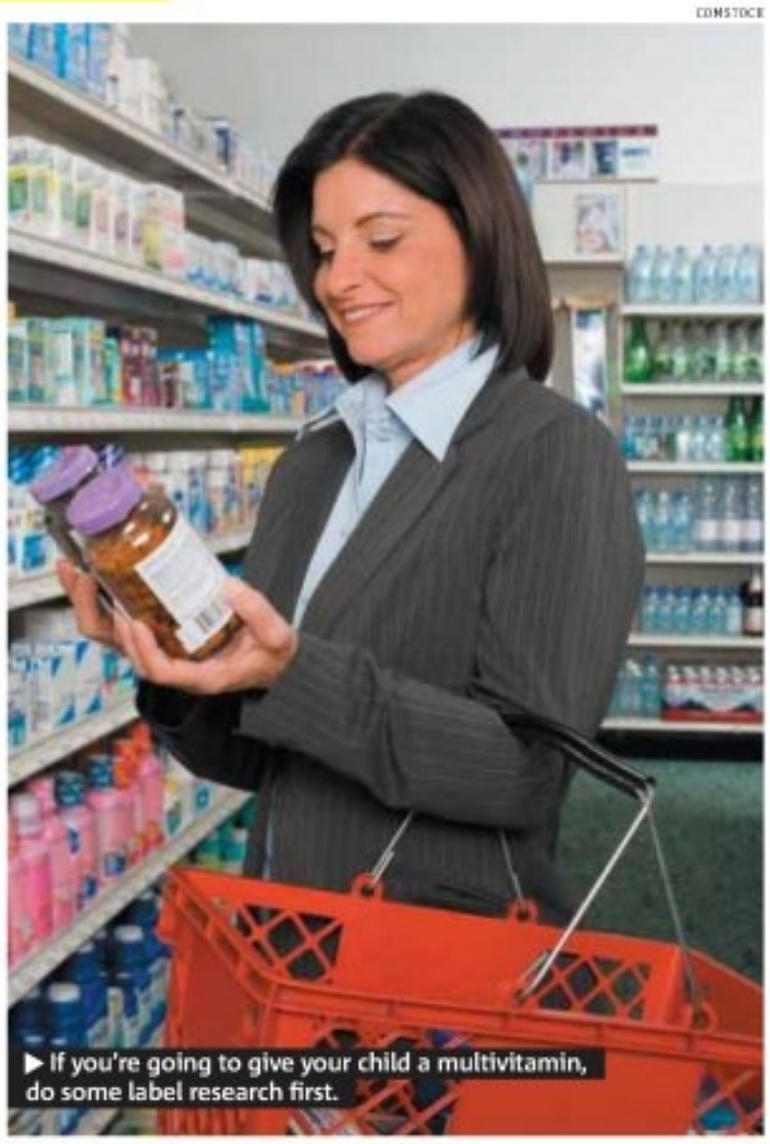

▶ If you're going to give your child a multivitamin, do some label research first.

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Letters

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Judging Bush: Did he tank economy?

RE: "CHECK YOUR WORK: BUDGET MATH OFF": I cannot believe I could agree with Kathy Kourian or Barb Milusky on anything but they are correct in criticizing Mr. Penner on George W. Bush. The Bush presidency was an absolute horror show with the Iraq war lies, 9/11, outrageous government deficit spending, support for the U.N. and worse. Who says Republicans are conservative? Save for a few in Congress, that's another lie swallowed by only the naive. **FRANK ST. GEORGE, VIA E-MAIL**

Former President George W. Bush may have bled the country dry by not properly funding two wars, but it was the budgets of the last two years of his term and the first two years of Obama's — controlled by a Democrat majority — that caused our financial situation. Bush tried to warn Congress. **GORDON BROWN, VIA E-MAIL**

Here's a free market tactic: Legalize it

Consumers have made marijuana a multibillion-dollar enterprise. Legalize it and add a sales tax. Revenues will cover the costs of any abuse. Citizens have more to fear from murder, arson, rape, muggings, robberies, auto and identity theft or home break-ins — along with ever-increasing levels of confiscatory taxation and debt by government. Free law enforcement to pursue those who commit real crimes against citizens and property. At 18, you are old enough to vote, be a parent, pay taxes, own a car, take out a bank loan, serve in the military and die for your country — not being able to consume marijuana makes no sense. **LARRY PENNER, VIA E-MAIL**

Social compact with grandparents denied

May is Older Americans Month and we, the grandparents of America, urge fellow Americans to join with us to protect our earned health care benefits. Sadly, more than 22 million retirees across America have had their earned health care benefits canceled by former employers, and another 14.3 million are on the verge of losing them. Millions of us are in the same sinking health insurance boat. Retirees need to stand up and be counted as many of our former employers have sought ways to rid themselves of health care contracts with us. **PAT CHARLESWORTH, VIA E-MAIL**

Disturbing to see prideful hatred

RE: "PRESIDENT OBAMA CAN COUNT THEM OUT": David Bowman says that African-Americans "will never support marriage equality for homosexuals because of their perverted lifestyle." I'm glad to see that the NAACP disagrees and hope that other African-Americans will come to support civil rights for all, in recognition of their history and sense of justice. I find it particularly disturbing, not to mention laughably hypocritical, to hear some religious conservative black people say that marriage should be between a man and a woman; given the fact that 70 percent of black children in this country are born to unmarried mothers, they don't seem to be practicing what they preach. **JONATHAN WILLNER, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Although your associates might have trouble getting a handle on things, this won't be the case with you. Your organizational abilities will make the difference.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Stay out of the way so that you don't rock the boat regarding arrangements that are presently running smoothly. You'll be more fortunate if you let circumstances dictate the show.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Others' hopes may be based on irrational wishes, but not yours. When you dare to dream, it will be founded on a lot of hard work.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Don't let opportunity fly out the window by being too timid or unduly cautious. If you get out and mingle, you might discover that you're luckier than usual in most of your affairs.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Instead of focusing solely on your immediate needs, concern yourself with developing productive ideas that could pay off down the line.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** There's a good chance you could extract some type of advantage out of an arrangement that has been started and advanced by another. Be on your toes.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Chances are you'll make better progress by working with traditional techniques than you would by using untested methods. Don't throw out the old in favor of iffy innovations.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You could be quite happy working on things that have a chance of yielding meaningful rewards. Concentrate your efforts on objectives that turn into something big.

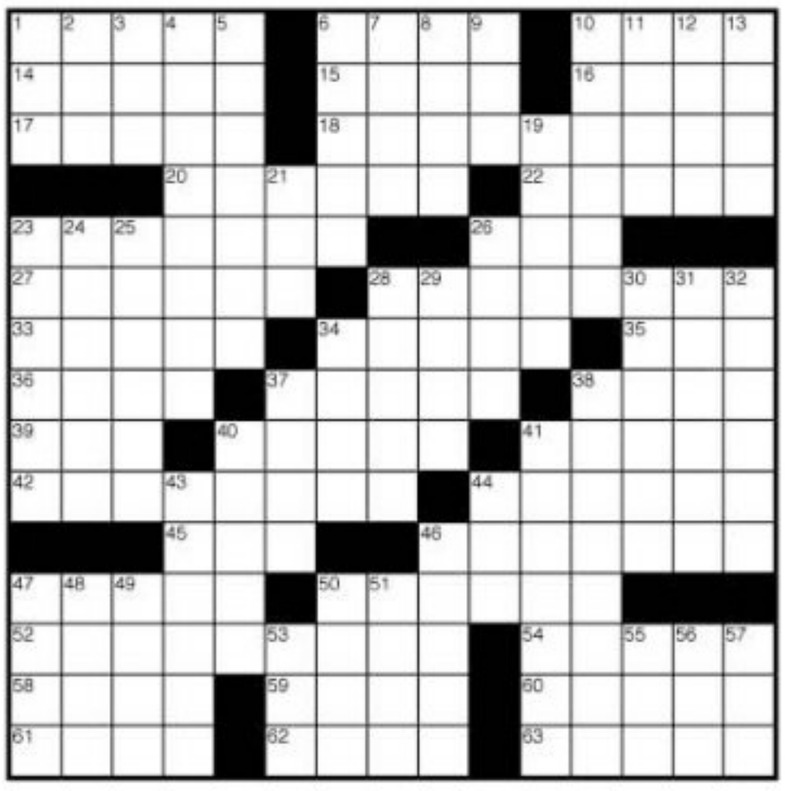
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** One of your better talents is managing a sticky situation and/or working with a difficult individual. You're an expert at handling things in ways that won't ruffle anyone's feathers.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** As long as you don't get rattled, everything will work out advantageously. Don't allow yourself to get flustered over shifting conditions or things you can't control.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Because you'll try to treat others as you would like to be treated, they'll both recognize your cooperative spirit and try to imitate it. It will make for good fellowship.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** If you stay on top of several situations that could each bear their own rich harvest, the possibility for an unusually large yield could be much greater than even you expect.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



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23 Judge
26 Tarzan companion
27 Disheartens
28 Pension recipients
33 Somber tune
34 Transported kids
35 Dial-up alt.
36 "Et tu" time
37 Quebec peninsula
38 Lo-cal
39 PBS funder
40 Poet W.H. __
41 Go swimming
42 Mutters
44 Nursery-rhyme girl (2 wds.)
45 Sitcom ET
46 Fabric care instruction (hyph.)
47 Fully conscious
50 Spicy cuisine
52 Engine problem (2 wds.)
54 Arsenio's buddy
58 In that case (2 wds.)
59 Zenith
60 Soupy
61 Nefertiti's god
62 Swabs
63 NASA milieu

Down
1 Trippet
2 AAA suggestion
3 Is, to Fritz
4 Waiters' concerns
5 Where artists mix
6 Bid
7 Cash subs.
8 Kind of bean
9 Stadium cry
10 Georgia peanut
11 Mexican pot
12 A few thou
13 Garden shed item
19 Part of REM
21 Home, in the phone bk.
23 Tacking on
24 NFL player
25 Chiffonier
26 To __ __ (exactly)
28 Crafty moves
29 "PTI" network
30 Revised
31 Rolle of "Maude"
32 Drowsing off
34 Ordered
37 Wide gap
38 Took in eagerly (2 wds.)
40 Better equipped
41 Saucepans
43 Dark red
44 Family mem.
46 Fakes out, on the rink
47 Reebok rival
48 Blow gently
49 Lhasa __
50 First name in perfume
51 Mounties' org.
53 Flee hastily
55 Double helix
56 Corp. ending
57 Peacock spot

				9		3		7
		4			3			
3		1	4			2	8	
	5		7				1	6
			3	8	5			
8	7				4		5	
	4	8			7	6		2
			8			4		
6		7		4				

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

				5		9	2	1
		3	7	4		8		
8			6					
4	3			1				
		2	5		7	4		
				3			8	9
					6			8
		8		9	5	2		
1	6	5		8				

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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destinations

Best day trips from London

Hopping across the pond to see the Olympics? You'll likely need to get away at least once during your trip Here's where you should go

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Check out the fun times on the beach in Brighton. Think of the Jersey Shore, but with British accents instead of Jersey accents. Somehow a bit more appealing, right?

London is 2012's "It" spot, with its popularity booming as it hosts the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Here are our picks for the best day trips from London — the ones even Londoners can't resist:

A day at the beach in Brighton

Brighton's funky oceanfront charm is fun even when it's not warm enough to swim (which is indeed most of the time). The city is not even one hour away by train from London. It's filled with quirky shops and hotels like the Hotel Pelirocco, where each room is uniquely decorated, with music-related themes like "Pin Up Parlour" and "Soul Supreme." But the best things to do in Brighton are the most basic: Walking along the beach, taking a look at the Indian-inspired Royal Pavilion (originally built for King George IV) or eating fish and chips at a seaside cafe.

A step back in time in Canterbury

It's only an hour and a half or so by train from London, but it's easy to feel like you've gone back in time in Canterbury. Many centuries-old buildings are still intact (including some from the 14th century, circa Chaucer's famous "Canterbury Tales"). The spires of the famous, majestic cathedral always loom large in the background, but don't miss stopping by Madame Oiseau, a French-run sweet shop that's essentially a real-life version of the chocolatier featured in the movie "Chocolat."

A quaint escape in Oxford

Oxford's best known for its world-famous university, which offers tours at many of the colleges, but there's plenty more to do in this quaint city. You can take in the art at the world-class Ashmolean Museum or just browse along the cobblestone streets. For an upscale bite, the brasserie at the Malmaison hotel is popular, tucked in the basement of a former 19th-century prison.

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Sixers pushed to brink, head home for Game 6

Team routed 101-85 by Celtics in Game 5 Boston grabs 3-2 lead as series shifts back to Philly Bass leads third-quarter assault Three things we saw:

1 APPROACH THE BENCH. The news wasn't good for Boston before the game: starting guard and defensive specialist Avery Bradley was out. That meant Ray Allen would start and an already thin Celtics bench just got thinner. The Sixers' bench has been dependable all season, and the disparity between the two benches last night was seven points in Philly's favor (27 to 20). For Philly to compete, they need more from Lou Williams (nine points) and Thad Young (six points).

ON TV TOMORROW

Game 6: Celtics at Sixers, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

2 BIG BASS. You would be hard-pressed to find anybody calling Brandon Bass a Sixers killer before yesterday, but he was. Bass went off in the third quarter, dropping 18 points. He did it with dunks, he did it with jump shots, and he helped awaken a Boston crowd that was relatively quiet for the first two and a half quarters. Bass finished the night with 27 points on 9-of-13 shooting (9-of-10 from the line) and six rebounds. Elton Brand had 19 points of his own in this one, but he was just one of the Sixers with no answer for Bass.

3 BLOOD IN THE WATER. With their win in Boston, the Celtics head to Philadelphia with a chance to end the series. The question is how will each team come out? Two of Boston's three wins have come easy, but the Sixers' comeback win in Game 4 was arguably the most impressive. The Sixers were feeling good after that game, but it was tough to see that resonate in the fourth quarter when Doug Collins was pleading with his players to keep their heads up. Boston smells blood. Is Philly ready to die?

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Andre Iguodala and Paul Pierce battle for a loose ball in the Celtics' 101-85 victory last night in Game 5.

3

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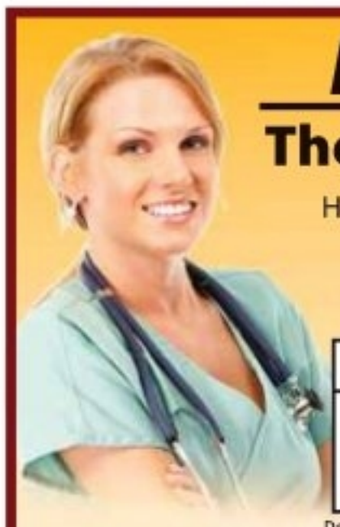

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Nat their night: Phillies bats quiet in tough loss

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They couldn't find much.

The Phillies mustered just six hits, five singles and a double by Shane Victorino, and fell 2-1 last night to Washington in the opener of a huge, three-game series.

Once again, the Phillies failed to generate offense. Their pitching was solid, specifically Kyle Kendrick, who allowed just two earned runs in seven strong innings.

But the Phillies followed up Sunday's one-run output against the Red Sox with another one-run performance, a sacrifice fly by Ty Wigginton in the ninth. Even the best pitching in the world can't help when runs aren't being scored.

When the Phillies defeated Boston on Friday for their sixth straight win, they were a season-best two games above .500 at 21-19. Three losses later, they're 21-22 and still in last place in the NL East.

When the lineups were posted, the Phillies' side resembled more of a split-squad version that one might see in spring training. Jimmy Rollins missed the game and Freddy Galvis got the start at shortstop, with Mike Fontenot at second base.

Even the boos generated by the fans at Washington's Bryce Harper were barely audible. It didn't have the feel of a rivalry series. That can happen when the visiting club dominates for the most part.

Maybe the next two games will provide some fiery moments. For now, the edge belongs to the Nationals.

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Rollins battling slump, Phillies need his spark

Shortstop struggling at the plate Manuel admits leadoff hitter has to pick it up Batting just .229 with one home run J-Roll is a new father

Whether the Phillies earn their sixth consecutive playoff berth doesn't solely hinge on the success of Jimmy Rollins.

But it is a main ingredient.

When Rollins acts as the catalyst, the Phillies tend to respond. He's their on-field leader, their emotional and inspirational director.

Heading into last night's opener against Washington, the Phillies stood at .500, with a 21-21 record. Not coincidentally, Rollins is struggling. He's hitting .229 with one home run, seven RBIs and an uncharacteristic three errors.

Rollins has battled through slumps before, but this seems different. He's 33 and playing in his 13th season with the Phils after signing a three-year, $33 million contract with an option for a fourth year. Unless they trade Rollins, he's likely to end his career with the organization that selected him in the second round of the 1996 draft.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jimmy Rollins got last night off after his wife gave birth to the couple's first child, a baby girl, on Sunday night.

At some point, the Phillies will need Rollins to spark this club like he has done so many times in the past.

"He could be hitting better, of course," manager Charlie Manuel said. "He's gotten off to slow starts before. It's nothing new to him. He's going to have to pick it up for us."

Manuel has watched Rollins take some good swings. The task now is to see Rollins do it every at-bat. The skipper held the shortstop out of the lineup yesterday after Rollins' wife, Johari, gave birth to a baby girl on Sunday.

"He hooks a lot of balls from the left side," Manuel said. "Especially the last few days, he's hitting the ball through the middle, which is a way to get his stroke back."

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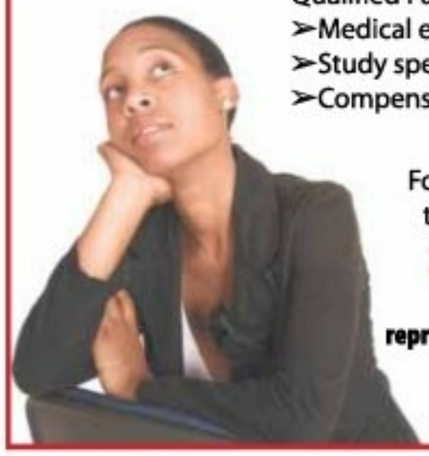

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